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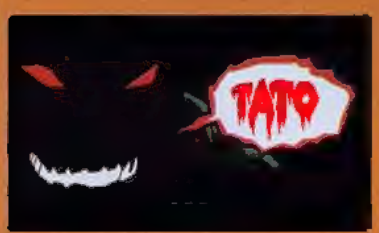
DARKMAN™



IN DEEP

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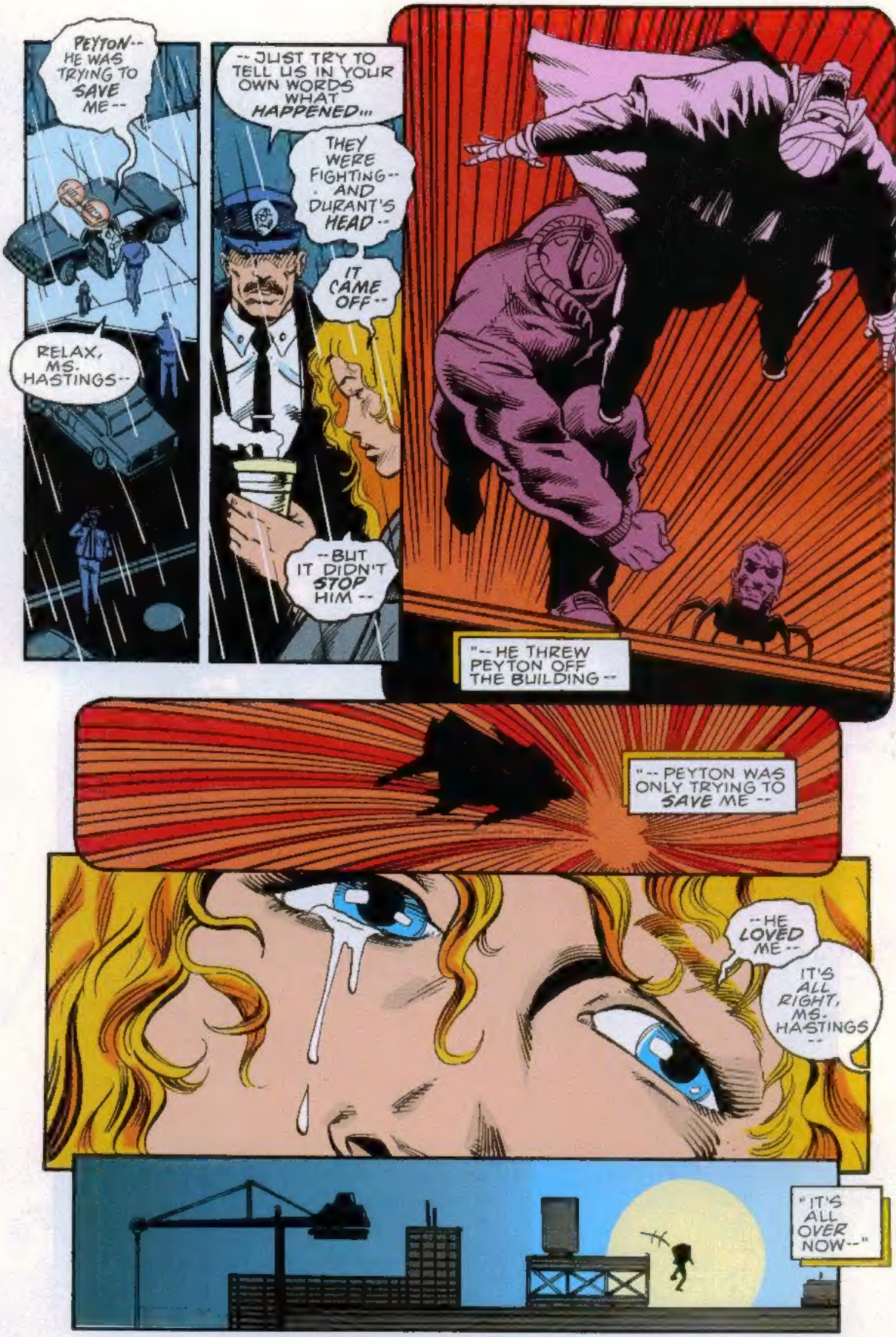

PEYTON-- HE WAS TRYING TO SAVE ME --
RELAX, MS. HASTINGS --
-- JUST TRY TO TELL US IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT HAPPENED...
THEY WERE FIGHTING -- AND DURANT'S HEAD --
IT CAME OFF --
-- BUT IT DIDN'T STOP HIM --
"-- HE THREW PEYTON OFF THE BUILDING --
"-- PEYTON WAS ONLY TRYING TO SAVE ME --
-- HE LOVED ME --
IT'S ALL RIGHT, MS. HASTINGS --
"IT'S ALL OVER NOW--"

WELL DONE, DURANT.
OUR FRIENDLY POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS CORDONED OFF THE CONSTRUCTION SITE -- BUT THEY'RE UNUSED TO A MAN WHO CAN LEAP AS FAR AS YOU CAN.
BEHIND THE TIMES. IT'S SAD.
AND AS FOR DARKMAN -- THERE'S NO WAY ANYONE COULD HAVE SURVIVED THAT FALL --
DON'T BE AN IDIOT, BELLASARIOUS.
BOTH DARKMAN AND I HAVE SURVIVED FAR WORSE.
CLICK
I WANT THE RIVER DRAGGED.
I WANT THE PIERS SEARCHED.
I WON'T BE SATISFIED UNTIL I SEE DARKMAN'S DEAD BODY WITH MY OWN EYES.

MORNING, ON THE UNDEVELOPED RIVERBANK SOUTH OF THE CITY.
THE HOMELESS SQUATTERS WHO LIVE HERE ARE REPAIRING THEIR DILAPIDATED SHACKS AFTER LAST NIGHT'S STORM --
--AND SEEING WHAT THE RIVER HAS WASHED UP THAT MIGHT BE SALVAGEABLE.
LOOK!
THERE!
WHAT IS IT?
GIMME HAND HERE!
IT'S A BODY--!
HE STILL ALIVE--?
TELL ME, JAKE. YOU LOOK LIKE THAT--
--YOU STILL WANT TO BE ALIVE?

THE MURNAU-SPRANG MEDICAL CENTER.
"HE WAS BRUTALIZED BY THAT MAN -- DURANT --
"HORRIBLY BURNED -- HIS FACE, HIS HANDS --
--THE DOCTORS -- THEY SEVERED HIS NERVES. IT SAVED HIS LIFE BUT AFFECTED HIS MIND --
HE'S IN AN EMOTIONAL WHIRLPOOL -- HAS ADRENALINE SURGES WHEN HE GETS MAD --
HE WAS A BRILLIANT MAN --
ALL PEYTON EVER WANTED TO DO WAS HELP PEOPLE --
HE WAS WORKING ON DEVELOPING ARTIFICIAL SKIN, DID YOU KNOW THAT?
MS. HASTINGS, I DON'T MEAN TO INTRUDE ON YOUR GRIEF -- BUT I'M HOPING TO TALK ABOUT YOUR ABDUCTION YESTERDAY.
IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU CAN RE-MEMBER --
--ANY-THING THAT CONNECTS THIS TO CLAUDE BELLASARIOUS OR THE METROPOLITAN CLUB --
-- WE COULD BLOW THIS SICK, CORRUPT CITY WIDE OPEN!
YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND, OFFICER KELSO --
HE STILL HAS ALL OF HIS MACHINES -- HE COULD LOOK LIKE ANYBODY --
HE COULD BE YOU -- I COULD BE TALKING TO HIM RIGHT NOW --
AND I DON'T KNOW -- WHETHER I WANT HIM TO BE HERE --
--OR WHETHER I'M TERRIFIED AT THE THOUGHT --
I SEE.
GET SOME REST, MS. HASTINGS -- YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A TERRIBLE ORDEAL.
MAKE SURE SHE GETS HOME ALL RIGHT, WOULD YOU?
SHE'S IN NO CONDITION TO BE AT WORK TODAY.

THE METRO-POLITAN CLUB.
WHAT!?!
DRAGGING THE RIVER CAME UP WITH NOTHING?
OUR MOLE IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT SAYS THERE'S NO TRACE OF HIM.
HE SAYS THERE'S A CHANCE HE WASHED UP ON THE SOUTH SHORE OF SHANTY-TOWN.
I'M SICK OF THAT DUMP! IT'S BEEN A THORN IN MY SIDE FOR TOO LONG!
CHNG
I DON'T CARE IF DARKMAN'S THERE OR NOT -- I WANT IT CLEANED OUT!
TAKE ALL THE MEN YOU NEED, DURANT--
--JUST RAZE THE PLACE!
ROBERT G. DURANT LOOKS AT BELLASARIOUS WITHOUT SPEAKING, BUT HIS MESSAGE IS CLEAR.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO...
...I MEAN, I'D CONSIDER IT A FAVOR--
--IF YOU--
WHY, THANK YOU, CLAUDE.
IT'LL BE A PLEASURE.

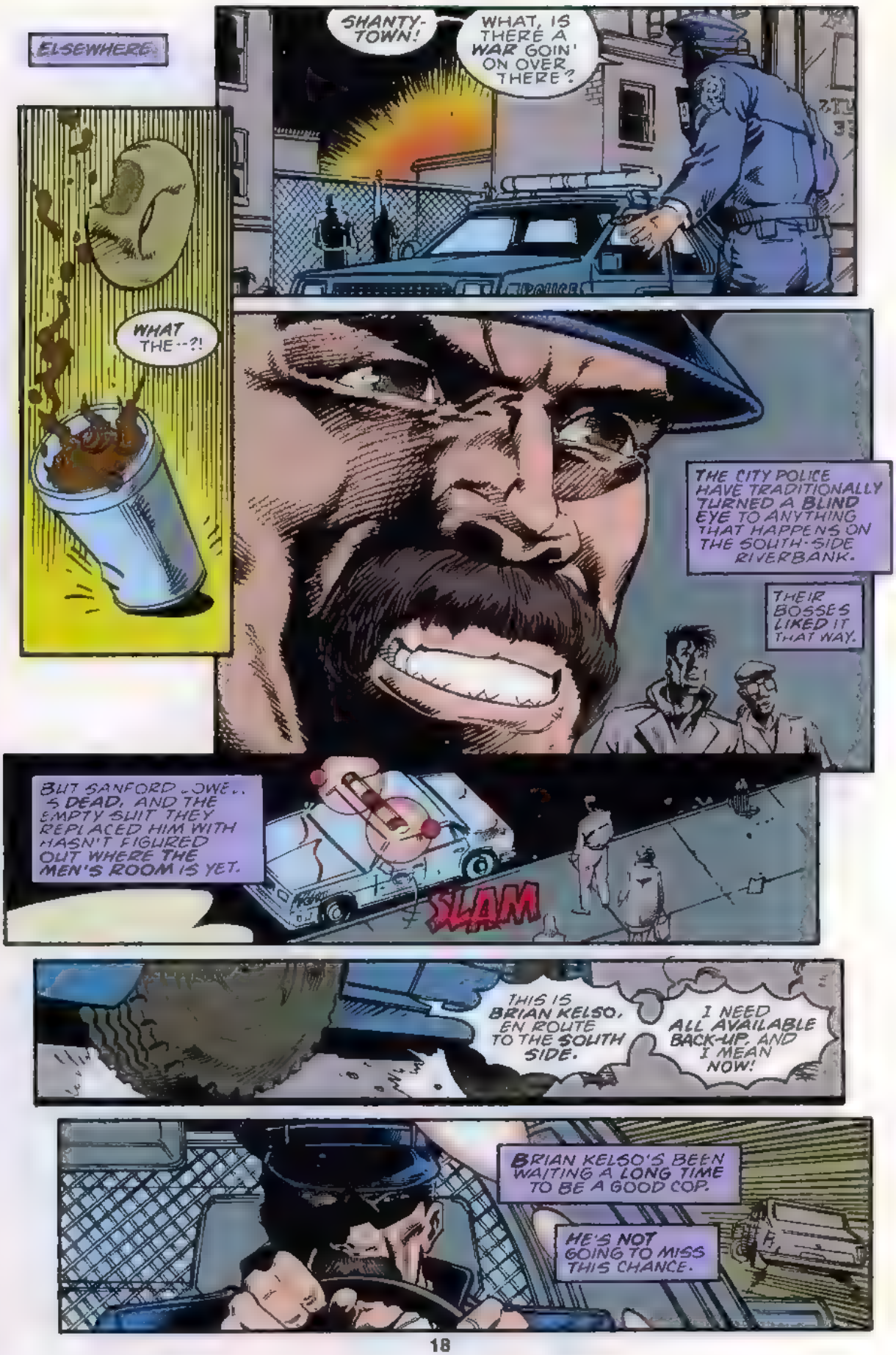
THE SOUTH SIDE SHANTYTOWN. NIGHT.
CRACKED BONES AND DAMAGED MUSCLES HEAL FASTER IF THE AFFECTED LIMBS ARE ALLOWED TO MOVE FREELY.
YOU HAVE SOME MORE OF THIS SOUP, Y'HEAR?
S'GOOD FOR YOU.
ALL IT TAKES IS TIGHT BANDAGES--
--AND THE INABILITY TO FEEL PAIN--
WHY-- WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS--?
YOU HAVE SO LITTLE FOOD--
--WHY SHARE WITH A STRANGER--?
OF ALL THE FOOL QUESTIONS--!
SH-CHAK
ALL RIGHT-- YOU KNOW THE DRILL.
IF ANYONE SEES DARKMAN, REPORT TO ME IMMEDIATELY.
HE IS MINE.
OTHER THAN THAT, WE'RE TAKING THIS PLACE OFF THE MAP.
NONE OF THESE SHACKS REMAINS STANDING.
NOBODY WALKS AWAY.

IF FOLKS DON'T LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER -- WHAT GOOD IS LIVIN'?
YEAH. YOU'D HELP A FELLER IF HE WAS DOWN, WOULDN'T YOU?
I --
THEY ACCEPT HIM, HE REALIZES. IN THEIR EYES, HE'S JUST A MAN. NO MORE, NO LESS.
HE --
--HE COULD HAVE A HOME HERE --
--I THANK YOU.
YOU'VE BEEN VERY KIND.
Ahhh... IT AIN'T NOTHIN'.
YOU JUST NEEDED A HAND UP...
OKAY...
NOW!
BRRRRTTTTTT
UNH!
AGHK!
Eh?
TTTTT BRR RTTTTT

HIS HEART GOES COLD AS GUNSHOTS AND SCREAMS RIP THROUGH THE NIGHT AIR.
HIS HEART GOES COLD--
--AND HIS WORLD GOES RED.
NOOOOOO!
THEY TOOK HIS FACE.
HIS MIND.
HIS HUMANITY.
Uh-Oh
THEY'RE NOT TAKING ANYTHING ELSE!!
WHAMP

DARKMAN MOVES LIKE WIND AND SHADOWS, STRIKING AND MELTING AWAY, A TATTERED WRAITH DEFENDING A JUNKHEAP CITY.
FIRST TWO MEN FALL, THEN THREE, THEN FIVE...
BLAST IT!
STAND STILL, YOU FREAKIN'--
Huh?
PLAYIN' HIDE AN' SEEK, EH?
THAT'S COOL. I CAN GET INTO THAT
TWK
Hah! I HEARD THAT!
TIME'S UP, SUCKER, AND YOU ARE
HEHEHEHE
TAGGED
SSSSKLANG

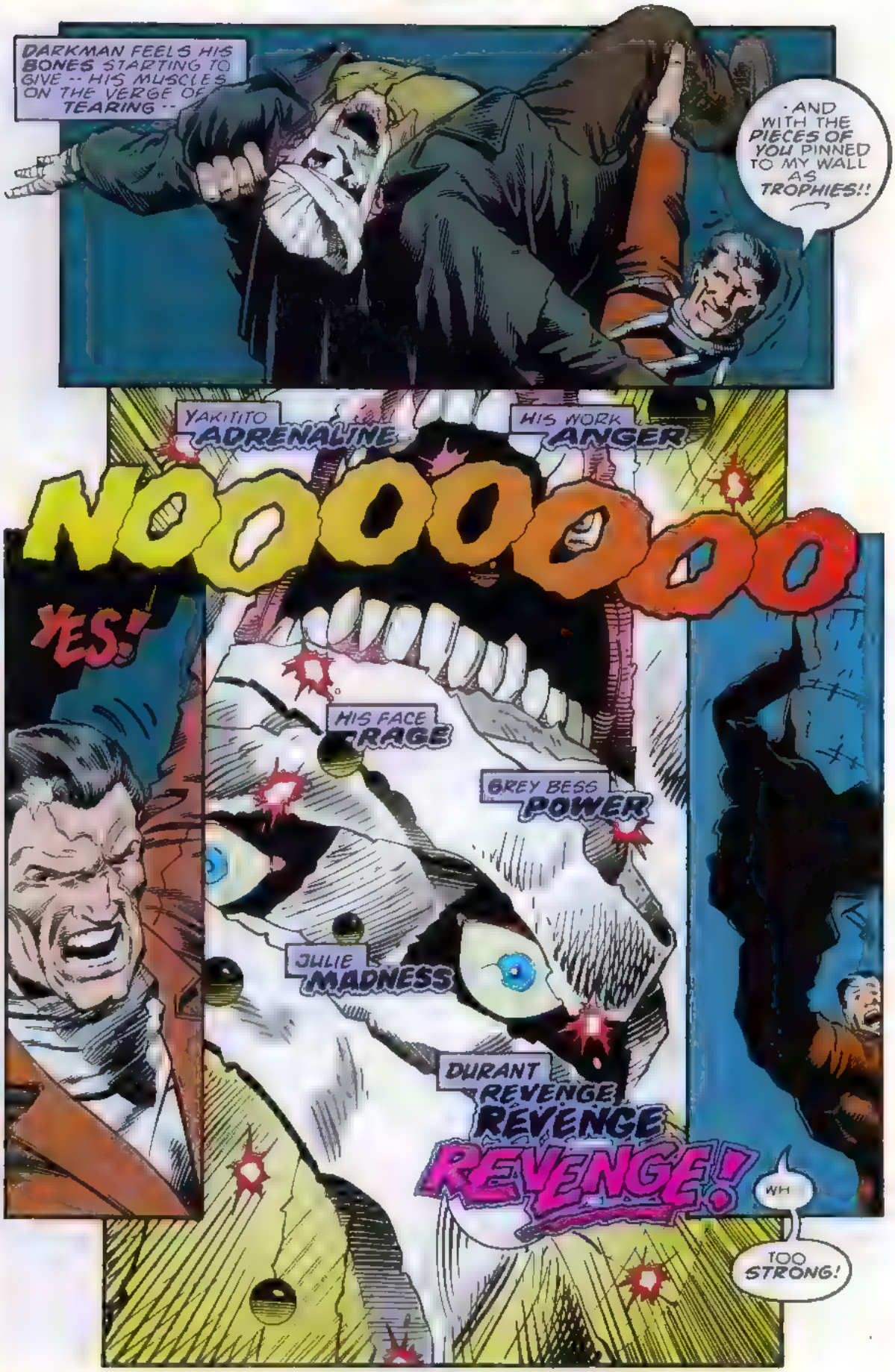
NEARBY.
GASOLINE
SOAK EM DOWN GOOD, PIGGY.
YEAH, YEAH.
HOW COME EVERY-ONE ELSE GETS ALL THE--
PLEASE--!
DO NOT DO THIS THING! THESE ARE OUR HOMES -- ALL THAT WE HAVE --
IT'S GARBAGE. JUST LIKE YOU!
AND WE BURN GARBAGE IN THIS TOWN.
BLAM
PIGGY.
OVER HERE.
WHAT--
N NO, MAN! PLEASE!
KABOOM


ELSEWHERE
SHANTY-TOWN!
WHAT, IS THERE A WAR GOIN' ON OVER THERE?
POLICE
WHAT THE--?!
THE CITY POLICE HAVE TRADITIONALLY TURNED A BLIND EYE TO ANYTHING THAT HAPPENS ON THE SOUTH-SIDE RIVERBANK.
THEIR BOSSES LIKED IT THAT WAY.
BUT SANFORD LOWE.. IS DEAD, AND THE EMPTY SUIT THEY REPLACED HIM WITH HASN'T FIGURED OUT WHERE THE MEN'S ROOM IS YET.
SLAM
THIS IS BRIAN KELSO, EN ROUTE TO THE SOUTH SIDE.
I NEED ALL AVAILABLE BACK-UP, AND I MEAN NOW!
BRIAN KELSO'S BEEN WAITING A LONG TIME TO BE A GOOD COP.
HE'S NOT GOING TO MISS THIS CHANCE.

KRAK
KU
NOT SO GOOD BEING ON THE RECEIVING END, IS IT?
IS IT?
HK HK-HK
YOU'RE NOT ANSWERING ME.
RIOT SQUAD'S HERE, KELSO.
WHAT IN BLAZES?!
MOVE 'EM IN SLOW, KENDRICKS.
ANYBODY WHO DOESN'T SURRENDER GOES DOWN. DO IT BY THE BOOK.
ALL RIGHT!
LAW AND ORDER!
COME ON IN, BOYS-- THE WATER'S--
-FMMFFF!

FORGET IT, DARK MAN!
I'LL DEAL WITH THE COPS LATER! RIGHT NOW--
--I'M GOING TO KILL YOU!
TOO LATE, DURANT - YOU ALREADY DID.
OR DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
THEY'RE ATTACKING!
FINE. YOU HEARD THE LIEUTENANT -
--TAKE 'EM DOWN!
BRAKATAKATAKATA
HEY!
BREAK IT UP - THE BOTH OF YOU!
HANDS HIGH AND WHERE I CAN SEE 'EM - OR I FIRE!
HOLD YOUR FIRE, FREMONT!
I'M NOT SURE WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, BUT THE ONE IN THE RAGS MIGHT--
JUST MIGHT -- BE ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS!
CHUD
UNHH!

SPONG
WHUMP
HE--
HE--
--HIS HEAD--
IT'S STILL MOVING--!
I'M GONNA BE SICK
YOU KNOW HOW THIS ENDS, DARK-MAN?
WITH THE BUMS DEAD -- THE COPS -- SILENCED -- AND ME OWNING THIS CITY!
JUST LIKE BEFORE!
AND YOU--
--IT ENDS WITH YOU BROKEN-- TORN APART--

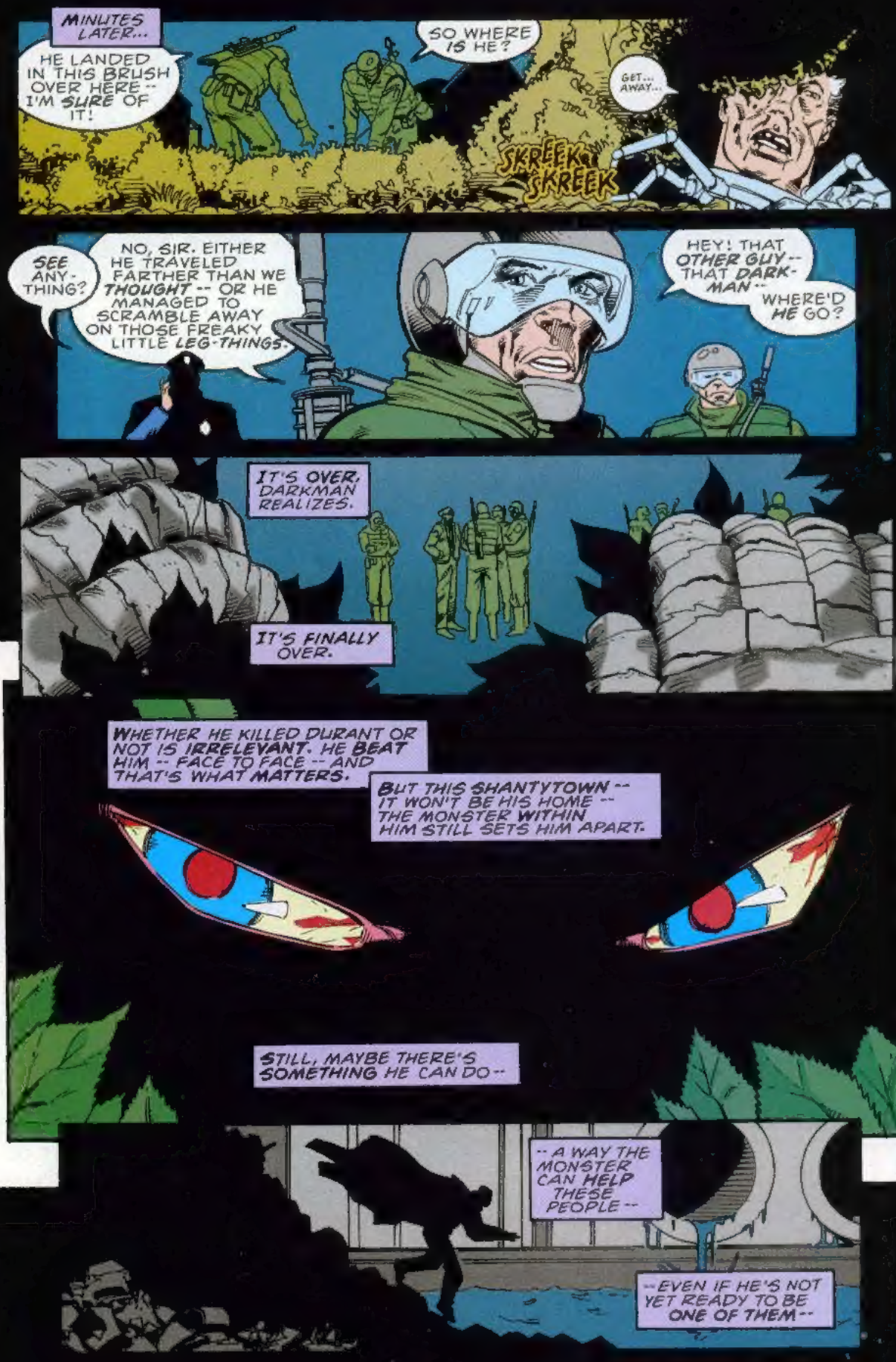

DARKMAN FEELS HIS BONES STARTING TO GIVE -- HIS MUSCLES ON THE VERGE OF TEARING --
-AND WITH THE PIECES OF YOU PINNED TO MY WALL AS TROPHIES!!
YAKITITO ADRENALINE
HIS WORK ANGER
NOOOOOOO
YES!
HIS FACE RAGE
GREY BESS POWER
JULIE MADNESS
DURANT REVENGE
REVENGE
REVENGE!
WH
TOO STRONG!

YOU WANT TO COLLECT BODY PARTS, DURANT--?!
Uhh--.
COLLECT THIS!
SHAKT
THE BODY'S PAIN JOLTS THROUGH THE CYBERNETIC LINKAGE INTO THE HEAD.
I -- TOO MUCH.
HE HAS TO DISCONNECT.
GET HIM!
HOLD IT, DURANT--
I'M NOT DONE YET!

HIS BODY—
EVEN WITH A BROKEN ARM, IT'S MORE THAN A MATCH FOR DARKMAN!
IT'LL SAVE HIM—!
LET GO LET GO LET GO-
I DON'T THINK SO DURANT.
SKAM
THIS IS IT!
DARKMAN HAS DREAMED OF THIS.
PRAYED FOR THIS.
HUK
NO NO MORE
LIVED FOR THIS!

SHLUK SHUK SHLUK
DARKMAN-- STOP!
LET US ARREST DURANT!
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO ARREST YOU -- FOR MURDER!
WHAT?
YOU WANT TO TAKE HIM FROM ME?
A ARREST ME...
PLEASE
NOOO! YOU CAN'T! THIS IS FOR ME! MY VENGEANCE! MY VICTORY! I WON'T LET YOU TAKE IT AWAY!
I PAID FOR THIS!
AND THEN HE SEES THEM.
THE SHOCK AND HORROR ON THEIR FACES. THE PULLING BACK.
THEY FEAR HIM NOW, HE REALIZES.
HE'S LOST THEM.

AND, IN THAT INSTANT--
WHAK
UKH!
PICK ME UP PICK ME UP
GET AWAY
DARKMAN'S CLEAR --
-- OPEN FIRE!
BKAM BKAM CHUDDA
BKAM BKAM BKAM CHUDDA
BRATATATAT
CHUDDA
BKAM BKAM CHUDDA
GETAWAAAAAY
BKAM BKAM BKAM
AND, AS DURANT'S BODY SLUMPS HEAVILY AND FINALLY TO THE GROUND.
SPAKCH


MINUTES LATER...
HE LANDED IN THIS BRUSH OVER HERE -- I'M SURE OF IT!
SO WHERE IS HE?
GET... AWAY...
SKREEK SKREEK
SEE ANY-THING?
NO, SIR. EITHER HE TRAVELED FARTHER THAN WE THOUGHT -- OR HE MANAGED TO SCRAMBLE AWAY ON THOSE FREAKY LITTLE LEG-THINGS.
HEY! THAT OTHER GUY -- THAT DARK-MAN --
WHERE'D HE GO?
IT'S OVER, DARKMAN REALIZES.
IT'S FINALLY OVER.
WHETHER HE KILLED DURANT OR NOT IS IRRELEVANT. HE BEAT HIM -- FACE TO FACE -- AND THAT'S WHAT MATTERS.
BUT THIS SHANTYTOWN -- IT WON'T BE HIS HOME -- THE MONSTER WITHIN HIM STILL SETS HIM APART.
STILL, MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING HE CAN DO --
-- A WAY THE MONSTER CAN HELP THESE PEOPLE --
-- EVEN IF HE'S NOT YET READY TO BE ONE OF THEM --

LATER STILL.
NOK NOK
18B
DONALD--?
YES... AND IT IS ME -- NO MATTER WHO YOU MIGHT THINK I AM.
I'M SORRY FOR DROPPING BY SO LATE -- BUT I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU BEFORE I LEFT.
YOU'RE -- LEAVING?
I'VE HAD A STANDING JOB OFFER -- A TEACHING POST IN CHICAGO -- FOR MONTHS. I'M GOING TO TAKE IT.
THIS CITY IS JUST TOO MUCH FOR ME. TOO -- OVER-WHELMING.
AND I KNOW THINGS HAVE BEEN WEIRD BETWEEN US -- BUT IF YOU WANT TO COME ALONG--?
MAYBE IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR ME TO LEAVE, DONALD. THIS TOWN'S GIVEN ME NOTHING BUT PAIN FOR A LONG TIME.
BUT I CAN'T. I HAVE UN-FINISHED BUSINESS HERE, AND IF I RUN FROM IT NOW --
--I'LL BE RUNNING FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.
I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR GOING.
BUT I'M GOING TO STAY.
I'M GOING TO FACE MY PROBLEMS.
AND I'M GOING TO FIND A SOLUTION.

AND LATER STILL, AS CLAUDE BELLASARIOUS SLUMBERS FITFULLY...
THINGS WENT BADLY TODAY -- BUT IT'S NOT HOPELESS. HE CAN START ON SALVAGE WORK TOMORROW.
AT LEAST --
--AT LEAST IT'S OVER.
CLAUDE BELLASARIOUS.
WH--
Uh--
YOU?!
YOU'VE SUCKED THE BLOOD OF THIS CITY FOR TOO LONG, BELLASARIOUS -- AND YOUR VICTIMS HAVE HAD NO ONE TO TURN TO. NO ONE TO PROTECT THEM.
WELL NOW THEY'VE GOT ME!
TELL YOUR FRIENDS.
YOU--
--YOU WON'T LAST A DAY--!
I'M LOOKING AT A DEAD MAN, DO YOU HEAR ME?
YOU'RE A DEAD MAN.
YES, BELLASARIOUS, I AM.
AND I'M HAUNTING YOU!

AND THE DAWN COMES -- A COLD, BLEAK DAWN --
--AND IN ITS CHEERLESS LIGHT, CLAUDE BELLASARIOUS REALIZES --
-- IT'S NOT OVER.
IT'LL NEVER BE OVER.